

Nwana Annual Election Meeting  
November 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 and was held on Zoom. Twenty-one people attended, including the Nwana board and guest speakers.

**Katie O'Dell made a presentation about the Multnomah County Library bond projects.** She began by providing some historical background about the library. She also talked about some of the services the library currently provides to the community.

She then provided some capital bond background, which included expansions and renovations to seven branches, including building a brand-new East County Library. One element of this project is community engagement. This is focused on equity, transparency, justice, accessibility, information, and flexibility. This community engagement will continue through 2025. These will be held through public surveys, public and virtual meetings, small group and one-on-one meetings, paid design opportunities for teens and community members, asynchronous opportunities for input (image boards, etc.).

The project is now in phase one, pre-design (gathering information and date), phase two will include planning spaces and finalize the building mass (The East County Library will be about 95,000 square feet.) There are three additional phases that will follow. O'Dell talked about the designers and engineering firms who will be creating this building, some local and some nationally recognized.

This new East County Library will be on a scale similar to Central Library downtown Portland. The prospective location is at Gresham City Hall Park and Ride (1297 NW Eastman Parkway). This site was chosen because of accessibility, the lot size (at least four acres), and location (Gresham). It will include state of the art technology, flexible open space for community use, co-working space and technology to support small business and entrepreneurship, dedicated space for teens to study, work together and learn STEM skills, and culturally responsive materials and staff to meet diverse community needs. It is expected that approximately 45,000 people will utilize this new library annually.

A neighbor asked what would happen to the current Gresham library. Katie said that it will close and the site will likely be sold and the money will be put into other projects.

Another question asked was about parking for the new library. It will be underground. The full site will not be used totally for the library, some will be reserved for future housing. The building will be two-story, 95,000 square feet.

The MAX stop just one stop away does include a large park-and-ride building, which could be used for overflow if needed. (the current Gresham Library is about 20,000 square feet).

**Britt McConn urban forestry subcommittee chair, spoke about our urban forestry canopy.**

She shared a slide presentation for the Neighborhood Tree Plan. These tree plans will help preserve and grow the number of healthy trees in Gresham neighborhoods. The goals of the plan are to customize a neighborhood tree plan, work with neighborhoods to define the goals and actions for their tree plans, and help each neighborhood determine a tree canopy coverage target along with activities to support achieving success.

At this time the subcommittee is collaborating with neighbors (through neighborhood associations when possible) to define tree-related goals, develop actions, determine a canopy target, etc. The Tree Canopy Mapping Tool will help the city to identify current canopy cover, needed gains to meet goals, areas that need to be prioritize, sites that need extra care, impacts of development, planting potential, canopy distribution, and where to designate significant heritage trees.

Tina Nunez-Osterink shared the Tree Canopy Mapping Tool that the city will use to gather information. She shared a short tutorial.

<https://greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Tree-Plan/#WhatIsTreeCanopy>

The mapping tool will be available to the public by the end of November or early December.

Barb asked if this might be something we as a Neighborhood Association might work on as an association. Kat suggested we take action on this during this meeting if there is interest in establishing a committee. Tina suggested it might be a broader title, such as a “sustainable committee,” rather than a narrow “tree committee.” Kat asked Michael Gonzales for input, and he said if there are at least three people willing to serve on the committee and one to chair it, that’s all we need to get started. Kat asked if there are people who are interested. Gina Bon volunteered, and Wayne McFadden volunteered, Will Peterson volunteered to serve as photographer, Christian Burgess also volunteered to serve on the committee but does not want to chair. Gina Bono volunteered to chair the committee. Britt McConn clarified what the chair would be responsible to do.

Michael suggested we vote on the three volunteers as a slate to create this committee. Kat said, “Motion to create a NWNA tree committee with Gina Bono as the chair and Wayne McFadden and Christian Burgess as committee members.” Laurie Monnes Anderson made the motion, William Peterson

seconded the motion. Seventeen voted to approve the motion, no opposition. The motion was approved.

**NWNA May 2, 2022 minutes approval:** the minutes were approved.

**NWNA board election:** (slate of neighbors willing to serve)

President: Kat Todd

VP: Chris Fast

Treasurer: Mary MaKenna

Secretary: Barbara Adams

Land Use Chair: John Bildsoe

Britt McConn made a motion to accept the slate, Paul Warr-King seconded the motion. Sixteen approved. The slate of officers was approved.

**Land-Use Updates:**

The adopt-a-park event in October went well. The rain garden was weeded, sticks and branches were gathered throughout the park.

Chris Fast shared his screen to share some land-use updates for John Bildsoe (who was not able to be present at this meeting).

Milne property (NW corner of Birdsdale and Division). Proposed development on 8.26-acres includes 198 units.

Bella Vista Apartments/Cottages/Row houses/duplexes: (2027 W Powell Blvd). Is nearly complete, there are concerns about lighting and lack of on-site smoking areas.

Bryn Mawr Estates (175 NW Bryn Mawr Ln. off Powell Blvd.): a proposed subdivision of the TLDR-zoned 3.79 acre site into 39 lots comprising at least one detached single family residential lot and attached single family residential lots.

(Chris touched on a few other on-going projects)

**Treasurer report:** The grant reconciliation report is complete. Current On-Point balance is \$998.23. There is one outstanding returned check to the city for \$412.55, leaving a balance of \$585.68.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.